

AGENDA

**Meeting to Determine Necessity of Petition
for Proposed Maintenance and Improvements**

DOKEY INTERCOUNTY DRAIN
(Allegan and Van Buren Counties)

Lee Township Hall
877 56th St., Pullman, Michigan
10:00 a.m., December 7, 2022

1. Call to order
2. Introduction of Drainage Board Members and engineer
Brady Harrington, Chairperson, Michigan Department of Agriculture
Denise Medemar, Allegan County Drain Commissioner
Joe Parman, Van Buren County Drain Commissioner
Chad Mencarelli, Land & Resource Engineering
3. Motion to elect Secretary
4. Approval of the agenda and meeting minutes
5. Reading of petition, explanation of procedures and voting rules - Chair
6. Presentation of preliminary engineering – Engineer
7. Public comment and questions **(please complete a speaker card)**
 - Please state name and relation to drain
 - Limit comments to 5 minutes until everyone has their first opportunity to speak
 - Be specific/describe problems or desired changes
8. Board member comments
9. Motion regarding necessity of the drain for the good of the public health, convenience, or welfare
10. Motion regarding revising drainage district boundaries
11. Motion determining which cities, villages, and townships, if any, should receive an at large assessment for benefit to public health.
12. Motion to retain financial consultant(s) and authorize interim borrowing
13. Closing comments and administrative procedures
14. Adjourn

History and procedure

The Allegan County Drain Commissioner received a petition from Lee Township on May 9, 2022 requesting consolidation of the Base Line Lake Intercounty Drain with the Dokey Drain and the Wright Drain and extending the Base Line Lake Intercounty Drain downstream to the upper terminus of the Dokey Drain to address drainage issues in Lee Township in Allegan County and Columbia Township in Van Buren County.

The Drainage Board met on June 23, 2022 and determined that the petition was sufficient and the requested improvement was practical. The Drainage Board further determined that the consolidation of the three drains and their respective drainage districts was necessary and conducive to the public health, convenience, or welfare, and that the consolidated drain would be known as the Dokey Intercounty Drain. The Drainage Board retained LRE to provide preliminary engineering alternatives and cost estimates.

Today's meeting is to make a public presentation of the preliminary engineering study and engineer's recommendations and cost estimates and to receive additional public testimony. The Board will decide based on the engineering study and testimony received at this hearing and earlier in the process, from the petitioners, landowners and local officials as to whether or not it is necessary and conducive to the public health, convenience, or welfare to proceed with some level of construction project to provide the relief requested.

The decisions today will be made by a majority vote of this Board. The Chairperson does not vote except in the event of a tie (abstentions are not allowed)

Again, it should be made clear that the Board will be deciding if there should be a project to address the relief requested in the petition and whether the project is necessary for the good of the public health, convenience, or welfare.

If the Board makes the determination that there is no need for any level of project, and there is no appeal, the petition process comes to an end and the costs of the procedure to date will be apportioned among the drainage district counties. These costs will be apportioned according to the benefits that would have accrued to the counties if the project had been completed.

If this Board finds a project Necessary at the end of today's proceedings and there is no appeal within the designated 10 days, this Board in conjunction with the recommendations of the engineer and testimony received from the hearing process, will decide on scope and breadth of the project to be constructed.

You have the right to appeal the decision of the Board whether the Board decides yes or no. Your appeal is to the Circuit Court of the county in which you reside, within 10 days of today's hearing. The scope or design of the project is not subject to appeal.